

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Docket No. 7312

Petition of the Gervais Family Farm, Inc. for a Certificate of)
Public Good pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248(j) authorizing the)
installation and operation of a Methane Generator Facility in)
Bakersfield, Vermont, and to Interconnect with the Village)
of Enosburg Falls Water & Light Department)

Order entered: 11/16/2011

ORDER RE: AMENDMENT TO CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC GOOD

I. INTRODUCTION

On June 29, 2007, the Public Service Board ("Board") issued a Certificate of Public Good ("CPG") to Gervais Family Farm, Inc. ("Gervais" or "Petitioner") authorizing the construction of a 200 kW farm methane generation project in Bakersfield, Vermont.

On August 22, 2011, Gervais filed a petition with the Board requesting an amendment to its CPG to allow the addition of a second 200 kW generator set.

No parties filed comments on the amendment request.

Although the addition of a 200 kW generator set results in a doubling of the generation output, there is little physical construction associated with the project, and thus, the land use impacts associated with the additional generation unit are minimal. Accordingly, our review of the project focuses on these potential impacts, which are related to air pollution and system stability and reliability.

In this Order we approve Petitioner's request to add a second 200 kW generator set.

II. FINDINGS

1. The existing generation facility consists of a 200 kW generator set. Gervais pf. at 1.
2. Petitioner proposes to add a second 200 kW generator set to the building that contains the existing generator set. To accommodate the second generator set, the building will require a 28 foot by 20 foot expansion. Gervais pf. at 1; exh. A.

3. Construction associated with the installation of the new generator set will not impact any historic sites, outstanding resource waters, headwaters, wetlands, or other natural areas, and will not result in erosion or runoff. Gervais pf. at 3.

4. The Agency of Natural Resources Air Pollution Control Division has determined that an air pollution control permit is not required, provided that the following conditions related to installation and operation of the generator set are met:

(a) Gervais Family Farm, Inc. shall only install and operate a Gauscor, spark-ignition, model SFGLD-180 generator rated at 200 kilowatts. Gervais Family Farm, Inc. shall not install an alternative engine without prior written approval from the Agency. The engine shall be maintained in good working order at all times and operated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's operation and maintenance recommendations.

(b) Garvais Family Farm, Inc. shall design and operate the biogas-to-energy Facility in such a manner that any biogas which is not combusted in the engine is routed to a flare that is designed and operated in accordance with 40 CFR Part 60, Subpart A, §60.18. The flare shall also be equipped with a properly sized windscreen to prevent blowout of the flame. All elements of the flare system shall be maintained in good working order at all times and operated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's operation and maintenance recommendations.

(c) The flare shall be equipped and operated with an automatic ignition system, such as a spark ignition system or a continuous pilot light, to ensure immediate and continuous combustion of any biogas that is routed to it. Spark igniters may be powered by the grid or an acceptable alternative power source.

(d) Gervais Family Farm, Inc. shall register its air emissions with the Agency annually in accordance with Subchapter VIII of the *Vermont Air Pollution Control Regulations*. Annual registration is required for all facilities that emit more than five (5) tons of emissions annually. Your facility is estimated to exceed five (5) tons if the two engines, combined, are operated for more than 4,000 hours per year.

Gervais pf. at 2; exh. C.

5. A system impact study has been conducted for the proposed expansion and has determined that the project will not adversely affect system stability and reliability, provided that the following conditions are met:

(a) A complete coordination study on the Village of Enosburg Falls Water & Light Electric Department ("VEF") distribution system and the Gervais generating

plant system must be conducted to allow proper setting of the generator relays and the distribution circuit reclosers and fusing.

(b) An electronic 7.2 kV breaker (recloser) must be installed on Boston Post Road as an anti-islanding protective measure for the VEF system.

(c) A transfer trip system to the generating plant is required.

(d) A switch with a visible break that can be locked open must be installed.

Gervais pf. at 2-3; exh. B.

6. The generator will interconnect via the existing single-phase line that currently serves the project. No new power poles will be necessary to interconnect the new generator. Gervais pf. at 2.

III. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The testimony submitted in this proceeding indicates that the project will not have an adverse impact on any of the substantive criteria of Section 248(b). Accordingly, we approve the addition of a second generator set at the Gervais Family Farm and issue an Amended Certificate of Public Good to that effect.

We note that this approval does not negate any regulatory requirements contained in the June 27 CPG. For example, the June 27 CPG included the following condition: "The Gervais Family Farm shall not utilize manure from other farms as fuel for the generation system, absent approval from the Public Service Board." As there has been no request to modify this requirement, it will remain in place.

IV. ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED by the Public Service Board ("Board") of the State of Vermont that the addition of a second 200 kW methane-fueled engine-generator set at the Gervais Family Farm in Bakersfield, Vermont, in accordance with the evidence and plans presented in this proceeding, will promote the general good of the State of Vermont and an Amended Certificate of Public Good shall be issued in the matter, subject to the following conditions:

1. Construction and operation of the project shall be in accordance with the plans and specifications submitted in this proceeding. Any material deviation from these plans or specifications must be approved by the Board.
2. The Gervais Family Farm shall not utilize manure from other farms as fuel for the generation system, absent approval from the Board.
3. Petitioner shall be responsible for, and pay for, the implementation of all studies, interconnection equipment, and system upgrades identified in the system impact study.
4. Petitioner shall comply with the conditions required by the Agency of Natural Resources Air Pollution Control Division.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 16th day of November, 2011.

<u>s/James Volz</u>)	
)	PUBLIC SERVICE
)	
<u>s/David C. Coen</u>)	BOARD
)	
)	OF VERMONT
<u>s/John D. Burke</u>)	

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: November 16, 2011

ATTEST: s/Susan M. Hudson
Clerk of the Board

NOTICE TO READERS: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Board (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: psb.clerk@state.vt.us)

Appeal of this decision to the Supreme Court of Vermont must be filed with the Clerk of the Board within thirty days. Appeal will not stay the effect of this Order, absent further Order by this Board or appropriate action by the Supreme Court of Vermont. Motions for reconsideration or stay, if any, must be filed with the Clerk of the Board within ten days of the date of this decision and order.